

The Partnership for a Resilient Apalachicola Bay
Meeting #5
Franklin's Promise Coalition
September 4, 2024
12:00 – 3:30 pm
Meeting Minutes

Ottice Amison called to order: 12:55

Introductions from Visitors

- Duncan Blair – Natural Resources & Sailor
- Kung Li – Aquaculturist
- Wayne Williams - Oysterman
- Matt Polis – Oysterman
- Doug Brown – Interested citizen

Betty: Communications committee had a quick meeting – ready to have a meeting to sit down with FWC, Betty and Devin will coordinate

- Education & Outreach committee: Group that puts out the information from the Partnership out to the community, educate the community about what they are doing, letter writing, create materials, etc.
- Communication committee: Group that will sit down with the agencies to discuss things the Partnership can do, how they can work together, etc. They will then report out to the entire partnership, no decisions will be made by the committee itself

Presentation from Devin Resko (FWC)

- Restoration placement in three phases
 - o Phase 1 – 24 sites testing relief height
 - o Phase 2 – larger area at 6 inches
 - o Phase 3 – small plots for FSU research, and then a larger area for restoration with 6 inch relief
- Incidents of deployed rock coming out of the water – addressed immediately
 - o Worked with the contractor, and smoothed significantly
- Multiple mapping techniques and more mapping being done
 - o Phase 1 – side-scan and down-scan from transom-mounted transducer
 - o Phase 2 – more robust side-scan from the gunnel mounted transducer with coupled post processing
- Contractor has been very understanding, FWC withholding payment until it is correct, more smoothing happening – most of what is happening now is more for science and less for navigation
 - o Want to make sure that they are the right height for the study
 - o Smoothing for navigation has been addressed

- Ultimately all restored sites will have sufficient navigation clearance when done
- Devin can provide maps of corner points and center coordinates for where all restoration is being done
 - Shannon: There is also a copy of the map available at Fisherman's Choice, if people are curious
- All material for Phase 1 & 2 is there
 - Phase 3 deployment at East Hole has started
 - All rock that will be placed are either in the bay or on their way
 - With increased smoothing efforts, deadline has been pushed to October
 - End of October – All material placed and smoothed
- Rocks that have been deployed with this project has evidence of oyster settlement – Devin feels things are pretty promising
 - Rocks with largest oyster growth are from late May
- Shannon: Barge ran aground on Platform, and Shannon had to ask them to stay off of Peanut Ridge and Cat Point and they are turning the bottom up
 - They are going around in circles, turning the bottom up in areas where there have historically been really good natural oysters. They were on top of existing bars, in areas that were put down in 17-18
 - Devin will let the contractor know where the oyster hotspots are to avoid and not 'test' anything of where oysters are
- Andy: How much clearance is needed between low tide and this construction?
 - FWC talked to a lot of folks about this, looking at about 1m (~3ft) clearance
 - Don't want huge peaks or valleys, know they aren't going to have a 90 degree tabletop
 - *Is heterogeneity and rugosity built in to the plan? Some thing that is wanted or no?*
 - We don't want an absolute tabletop, but relative consistency to the height is key for testing
- Steve: I thought that higher relief is generally accepted would be have better results?
 - Previous research in relief differences has been in terms of inches. Looking at between 1 and 2 feet, if 1 foot works just as well than 2 feet, they will go with 1 foot to be able to double the square footage of material used for future projects.
- Ken: Is it possible to get a timeline for the next Phase or next round of the process? Do you know when the next round of this project will happen?
 - Yes, there are many colorful timelines that exist already for the next steps. Devin and Dan don't have it in their access, but they can get it to folks.
 - *Recommended to be before the procurement process*
 - Devin wants to give a long term view for folks. Dan says they can provide information to the communication committee

- Andy: Recommend having rugosity and the ups and downs on the reef, because that's where the magic is. You need to add in the nooks and crannies, but that might not be effective in terms of water flow.
 - o Devin will mention it to FWRI to consider it about the flow of the reefs but also the experimental set up
 - o Roger: On the bars, the areas where there were drop offs and such there were always more oysters on the drops and along the edges
 - o Matt and Wayne: The man-made lumps always had more lumps on the edges than on the top, but the natural bars are relatively flat and have grown well. Peanut Ridge is completely depressed, it needs to be rebuilt up, the last big storm we had here – it washed it away, the ridge used to come up out of the water in low tide

Rotation process feedback

- Difficult to process with all the talking, separating the groups into different rooms could help, was a little tight quarters
- Lots of discussion amongst each of the groups
- If you have additional comments, email them to Betty about them

Additional agenda items 3:30

- Organizational business: minutes from last meetings approved
- **Next Meeting:** Sept 25th, 2024
- We are officially funded after September, so we will have a meeting in October
 - o Phase 1 will end in September
 - o Phase 2 is funded through 3 years, starting Oct 1
- Organizational groups are starting to get together and things are starting to roll

Meeting Adjourned: 3:33 pm